REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Official Action mailed May 04, 2005. Claims 1-2 and 4-41 were examined. Claim 3 is withdrawn from consideration.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of this application and the allowance of claims 9-41. The Office Action, however, has tentatively rejected claims 1-2 and 4-8. Applicants have amended independent claim 1 and further submit the following, additional remarks. In addition, Applicants have canceled claim 3.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Itou et al 6556260.

The Office Action indicated that "Regarding claim 1, Itou shows a liquid crystal display device, comprising: a first substrate 11; organic light emitting element 31, (that the layer is organic is in column 10, lines 15-25) a transparent protective layer 42 formed on the OLED element (any layer can be construed as a protective layer, because once applied the layer will provide protection against oxidation and other effects); a common electrode 20 formed on the transparent protective layer; a second substrate opposing 12 the first substrate, wherein the second substrate has a pixel electrode thereon 21; and a liquid crystal layer 10 interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate."

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

> 1. A liquid crystal display device, comprising:
> a first substrate;
> an organic electroluminescent display (OLED) element ***serving as a backlight source*** formed on the first substrate;
> a transparent protective layer formed on the OLED element;
> a common electrode formed on the transparent protective layer;

a second substrate opposing the first substrate, wherein the second substrate has a pixel electrode thereon; and

a liquid crystal layer interposed between the first substrate and the second substrate.

(Emphasis Added).

It is clear that the liquid crystal display device of claim 1 comprises an organic electroluminescent display (OLED) element **serving as a backlight source** formed on the first substrate, and a second substrate opposing the first substrate, wherein the second substrate has a pixel electrode thereon. The organic electroluminescent display (OLED) element in claim 1 **takes the place of a backlight module**. Thus, light emits from the OLED element of the first substrate to the second substrate (directly toward the user).

However, Itou actually discloses:

"The flat light source 31 ***emits light in the direction of second substrate 12 positioned opposite thereto***, and a component of light emitted in a direction of the first substrate 11 is reflected by layer 22 to return this component in the direction of the second substrate 12. Thereby, most of the light emitted from flat light source 31 is able to pass through the liquid crystal layer 10, thereby ensuring that ***the light from flat light source 31 will not be emitted directly toward the user.***"

(col. 5, lines 59-67) *(Emphasis Added)*

And,

"Reflecting electrode 21 has two functions, one ***as a reflector plate for reflecting light coming from a direction of the substrate 11 passing through liquid crystal layer 10***, and the other one for switching the liquid crystal layer 10 on and off between a bright display (on) state to enable light transmission and a dark display (off) state to block light transmission."

(col. 10, lines 56-62) *(Emphasis Added)*

And,

"reflection plate for reflecting light which passes through the liquid crystal layer back to the liquid crystal layer; and light emitting element layer for emitting light to the liquid crystal layer, and wherein ***light emitting element layer is arranged above liquid crystal layer*** so as to surround the display portion of the liquid crystal layer."

(Abstract) *(Emphasis Added)*

In Itou and its drawing figures (Figures 1, 5, and 9 to 14), the first substrate is upper substrate, and the second substrate is lower substrate. Also, as disclosed in the ABSTRACT of Itou, light emitting layer, as a front-light module, is arranged above liquid crystal layer and adjacent to upper substrate. In addition, in Itou, the flat light source 31 **emits light in the direction of second substrate 12**, which is lower substrate, positioned opposite thereto. **The light from flat light source 31 will not be emitted directly toward the user.** Reflecting electrode 21 **as a reflector plate for reflecting light coming from a direction of the substrate 11**, which is upper substrate, passes through liquid crystal layer 10. **The function of light emitting layer in Itou differs from the function of the organic electroluminescent display (OLED) element in claim 1.**

Therefore, for at least these distinctive reasons, claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference. Insofar as claims 2, 4-5, 7-8 depend from claim 1, claims 2, 4-5, 7-8 are also allowable.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Itou et al 6556260 and further in view of Yamaji et al 5721601. As set forth above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Insofar as claims 6-7 depend from claim 1, claims 6-7 are also allowable.

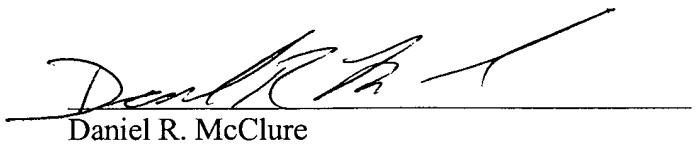
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request submit that the foregoing is fully responsive to the election request and that all presently-pending claims be allowed to issue. If the Examiner has

any questions or comments regarding Applicants' response, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this amendment and response to Office Action. If, however, any fee is believed to be due, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to deposit account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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